

DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

January 18, 2012

Darlington Volunteer Fire Company

Members Present: Rich Norling, Chair
Jane Howe, Secretary
Lilma Huntley
Russell Kovach
Joni Nugent
Donald Thomas
Alan Thompson
Shirley Thompson

Guests: Billy Boniface
Christine Buckley
John Jones
Bob Riley
Milly Riley
John Sauers
Chad Shrodes
Capt. Keith Warner

Rich Norling called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM after moving the meeting to the DVFC since the scheduled meeting location, Conowingo Visitor Center, was locked and not open for business.

Review of Minutes: Donald Thomas made a motion to approve the November 16, 2011 minutes with one correction. Russell Kovach seconded. Passed.

Guest Presentation: Rich Norling introduced Christine Buckley, Harford County Department of Public Works, who gave an update on water resources engineering. She explained that there are two definitive sides to the issue: the watershed restoration side and the sediment run-off side. She gave a brief history of surface water quality starting with the federal Clean Water Act of 1972, Clean Water Act Amendments in 1987, ending with the lawsuit brought by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2010. The amendments were designed to redress surface water issues that were not previously regulated. The MS4 Program, municipal storm sewer systems, and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) have resulted in a WIP (Watershed Implementation Plan) established for the State of Maryland along with timelines and deadlines. Water quality restoration drives the permitting process as old permits expire. Permits vs. money vs. the economy have created problems at a time when the State is pushing for results. The deadline to achieve water quality standards is 2025. Ms. Buckley went on to describe past and ongoing projects. Most projects are generated from assessments, but some trickle in from citizen requests. Projects move from assessment to design to construction. Fixing problems at the source is the easiest to accomplish. Her office operates with a staff of four people. Grant funding comes from the DNR (Department of Natural Resources). Required by MS4, they are providing education, especially to businesses, about stormwater runoff and pollution prevention. She commented that “aesthetics” are better now. Big catch ponds are now designed as rain gardens. She showed several that have been built at local elementary schools.

The following topics were highlighted in the Question & Answer session:

~ Maryland was assessed \$27,000 in fines for non-compliance. As audited, illicit discharge, plan in place, storm water management inspection documentation were not indicative that things were not well done, but were more due to fuzzy regulations.

~ Ms. Buckley will check into the current assessment of the pond at Dublin Dell. Chad Shrodes added that stormwater ponds need to be maintained. They only have a 25 year life span. Ms. Buckley said she is required to inspect facilities at least every three years. New projects are filed in the Court House and are easier to monitor.

~ DPW (Department of Public Works) is actually removing impervious surface when possible in compliance with the new regulations. Porous paving for highways, especially bike lanes, is being researched. It's tricky to balance all needs when considering open section roads with regards to impervious surface quotas.

Ms. Buckley left a paper copy and a CD of the slide presentation. Contact janehowe@aol.com for access. Ms. Buckley can be reached at 410-638-3545 x 1176.

Sheriff's Representative: Capt. Keith Warner reported that once again, crime is low in the upper end of the county even though there has been an increase countywide. He reinforced the warning to LOCK UP buildings and vehicles. Some local burglaries have been traced back to people who know one another, “inside jobs”. In the lower end of the county, there is growing concern about theft of weapons. He urged everyone to lock up firearms. Enforcement of illegal parking in handicap spots is stepping up. He urged people to know how to use the handicap pass and to use it legally. The official drill for Peachbottom disaster preparedness is March 27 and 28. Efforts involve the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and are paid for by Peachbottom. The Emergency Alert system does not currently have battery

backup, so the Sheriff's Office must go out into the neighborhoods to broadcast alerts. In the next three years, Peachbottom will be paying for a new retrofit with batteries. Sheriff Jesse Bane is planning a series of Town Meetings, the next one scheduled for January 21 in Abingdon. Capt. Warner will let us know when a meeting is planned for our area.

County Council President, Billy Boniface: Billy reported that road issues flagged at the November meeting have been addressed. Lilma Huntley confirmed that crews were present on Price Road shortly after the meeting. He commented that it will be a busy spring with the Master Plan closely followed by the Parks and Rec Element Plan. There was much discussion about Bill 11-62 regarding a solid waste transfer station. The Army waste to energy contract expires in 2016. Any new plan will require community input. Donald Thomas made a motion to send a letter to County Executive, David Craig, in support of the ongoing effort to locate a trash disposal/transfer site in the southern part of the county. Joni Nugent seconded. Passed.

The recently passed bill requiring pawn brokers to hold merchandise for 30 days and the smoking ban on county property were discussed. In particular, how will the smoking ban be enforced? Billy said he will check into the procedure.

County Councilman, District D, Chad Shrodes – Chad commented on the need for a recycle/trash site in the southern end of the county. He said the zoning for permitted uses is different there as are property appraisals. Regarding patching Castleton Road, Chad noted that a bigger project is planned. He will forward the information from SHA (State Highway Administration) to Rich Norling. He is seriously concerned about the 23 deaths on Harford County roadways in 2011, many of which were from his District. He referenced a Traffic Task Force made up of the three municipalities, State Police and Sheriff's Office that are reviewing high concentration areas of accidents. He will meet with Pete Gutwald, Planning and Zoning, to add bulleted references to the Master Plan about rural character, architectural design standards, stronger TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) language, and signage, especially electronic, in rural areas.

Senator Barry Glassman – Barry is at the legislative session in Annapolis. Barry has told John Sauers that the recent Aegis article referred to new money for resurfacing roads and that no new roads were planned. John Sauers argued that the DDCC did not have input into the decision making process with regard to the language being used in Barry's draft bill to describe local roads. Rich explained that the DDCC is appointed by the County Executive to advise county government.

Old Business: Darlington Dublin Land Use Element Plan – One final discussion resulted in the following considerations:

- ~ Change language in first paragraph referring to Deer Creek Road since there is no such road.
- ~ Remove "Gateway" from Darlington Gateway Park in the text and on the map since the park has not been named yet by the local Rec Council.
- ~ Add truck traffic language to the Master Plan as it affects rural roads.

Future Guests and Agenda - The following guests were suggested for invitation:

- Arden McClune – Update on Parks and Rec – Rich Norling will contact
- Sallie Kunkel Filkins – Center for the Arts – Jane Howe will contact
- Susan Kelly – Getting There Ride Share – Jane Howe will contact
- Boy Scout Camp update – next fall

Spring Town Meeting – Wednesday, April 25 was selected as a potential date since the session in Annapolis will be completed. Jane Howe will check with the DVFC for availability of the venue. All Delegates will be invited to give a wrap up. SHA will be invited to give an update on the fall Town Meeting issues.

New Business: Jane Howe reported that she and Joni Nugent attended an informational meeting at Tudor Hall regarding plans for the planned Cultural Arts Center in Bel Air. A survey of local resources and unmet needs is due on February 2. Jane will send a link to the survey.

Good of the Council:

- ~ Copies of the 21034 Community E-News were distributed. Please send in articles of interest.
- ~ Getting There Ride Share flyers were distributed for posting in public places.
- ~ A new gift shop will be opening in February next to the hair salon on Main Street in Darlington.

Adjournment: Russell Kovach made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lilma Huntley. Passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2012, 7PM at the Conowingo Visitor Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Howe